



PUBLIC LAW SECTION

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARIEL PIERRE CALONNE, LEADER AMONG CALIFORNIA CITY ATTORNEYS, AWARDED PUBLIC LAWYER OF THE YEAR BY STATE BAR

San Francisco, July 9, 2003 – Ariel Pierre Calonne, City Attorney of Palo Alto, has been named 2003 Public Lawyer of the Year by the State Bar of California.

As Palo Alto's City Attorney over the past 13 years, Mr. Calonne has served a full-service chartered city of 60,000, supervised its attorney office, and advised its Mayor and City Council. He is general counsel to the city's gas, electric, dark fiber, storm drainage, sewage treatment, and water utilities. He represented Palo Alto in major development negotiations with Stanford University, and advised the city on the development of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. Calonne personally litigated major public records, environmental and land use cases. He filed a friend-of-the-court brief in *Roberts v. City of Palmdale* (1993) 5 Cal. 4th 363, the California Supreme Court's landmark case upholding attorney-client privilege in the public sector. On September 7, 2003, Calonne will take his 20-year public law experience to become City Attorney of Boulder, Colorado.

Prior to his current position, Calonne was an associate attorney with Richards Watson & Gershon, where he represented many municipalities on various legal affairs, including CEQA, land use, zoning, environmental, water rights, strategic planning and other matters. Calonne was also an associate with Best Best & Kreiger, where he focused on municipalities' water rights and environmental issues. In addition to Palo Alto, Calonne has represented the cities of Rancho Palos Verdes, Palmdale, Westlake Village, Ventura, Corona, Redlands, Banning, Desert Hot Springs and Perris.



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A leading expert on the Brown Act and Public Records Act, Calonne has served on the Advisory Committee to the Joint Senate-Assembly Task Force on Personal Information and Privacy, as well as the Electronic Access to Public Records Task Force of a Senate Committee. Active on the League of California Cities, Calonne served as president of the group's City Attorneys Department, chaired its Public Records Act where he initiated an electronic discussion group among city attorneys statewide, and participated on its Legal Advocacy Committee. A particularly notable accomplishment has been his contribution in the development and monitoring of the 457-member City Attorneys' Department Web site, a valuable resource accessible akin to that of a large municipal law firm, which is accessible to every California city attorney. Calonne has also held leadership positions in the Los Angeles County Bar Association on land use planning issues and on the City of Riverside's Environmental Protection Commission. He has further published and presented papers on a variety of local government topics.

On Calonne's selection as Public Lawyer of the Year, the Bar's Public Law Section Chairperson Stephen Millich commented that "it is an award richly deserved!"

The Public Lawyer of the Year Award is presented annually by the Public Law Section of the State Bar of California at the Bar's Annual Meeting. The award is made to a public law practitioner who deserves special recognition because of outstanding public service. Chief Justice Ronald George will present the award to Calonne on Friday, September 5, at a hosted reception from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., in the Green Room of the Anaheim Hilton during the Annual Meeting.

For more information, contact the Public Law Section at (415) 538-2248.